Special Granta to J & K

62. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of special assistance/grants provided to the State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1st June, 1996;

(b) the heads under which this amount has been provided separately; and

(c) the total amount spent on reconstruction/repairs of damaged bridges/schools and infrastructure during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Finance has released the following amount as under:-

Rs. in crores

Items	1996-97			1997-98	
	Allocated	Released since 1.6.96	Total for the year	Allocated	Released (upto 15.7.97)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Spl. Central Assistance	663.00	663.00	663.00	850.00	280.00
2. Spl. Plan Loan	100.00	92.70	100.00	-	
3. Spl. Plan Assistance	-	-	-	200.00	64.00
4. Spl. Central Assistance for Border Area Dev. Programme	20.68	20.68	20.68	19.79 (tentative)	-

In addition, Ministry of Home Affairs through Department of J & K Affairs has also released Rs. 234.99 crores under Security Related Expenditure during the financial year 1996-97, including Rs. 197.79 crores released after 1st June, 1996.

(c) In the year 1996-97, since 1st June 1996 an amount of nearly Rs. 24.50 crores was spent by the State Govt. for reconstruction of Government damaged property due to militancy.

Child-Labour Engaged in Unorganised Sector

63 SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of children below the age of 14 years have been employed in various unorganised sectors in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to eliminate the child labour system in the country and impose punishment for those who are found to employ these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has taken a series of steps to address the problem of child labour in the country. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in Part A and B of the Schedule to the Act. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable for prosecution. There are also legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interests of working children. It has been the effort of Government to enforce all the child labour related laws in a harmonious manner. Apart from legal measures, Government have taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations. A major programme was announced in August 1994 for the rehabilitation of around 2 million children working in hazardous occupations. So far 76 Child Labour Projects have been set up for the rehabilitation of around 1.5 lakh children working in hazardous occupations. As per the available information, around 1.05 lakh children are already enrolled in the special